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LETTER

FROM

MRS. DUDLEY.

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LETTER.

Judge Harris said that the gentlemen who had preceded him had done well. The audience had already awarded them their praise. But he had a SPEECH to make which would *excel them all*. He was at liberty thus to speak, for the speech was not his own—would that it were. It was a speech which would embalm the name of its author in the hearts and memories of the whole scientific world. He then read the following letter from Mrs. Dudley :

ALBANY, *August* 14, 1856.

To the Trustees of the Dudley Observatory :

Gentlemen—I scarcely need refer in a letter to you, to the modest beginning and gradual growth of the Institution over which you preside, and of which you are the responsible guardians. But we have arrived at a period in its history, when its inauguration gives to it, and to you.

some degree of prominence, and which must stamp our past efforts with weakness and inconsideration, or exalt those of the future, to the measure of liberality necessary to certain success. You have a building erected, and instruments engaged of unrivalled excellence, and it now remains to carry out the suggestion of the Astronomer Royal of England, in giving permanency to the establishment. The very distinguished Professors, Bache, Peirce and Gould, state in a letter* which I have been permitted to see, that to expand this Institution to the wants of American Science, and the honors of a National character, will require an investment which will yield annually not less than \$10,000. And these gentlemen say, in the letter referred to, "If the greatness of your giving can rise to this occasion, as it has to all our previous suggestions with such unflinching magnanimity, we promise you our earnest and hearty co-operation, and stake our reputations that the scientific success shall fill up the measure of your hopes and anticipations."

For the attainment of an object so rich in Scientific rewards and National glory, guaranteed by men with reputations as exalted and

enduring as the skies upon which they are written, contributions should be general, and not confined to an individual or a place.

For myself, I offer as my share of the required endowment, the sum of \$50,000, in addition to the advances which I have already made, and trusting that the name which you have given to the Observatory may not be considered as an undeserved compliment, and that it will not diminish the public regards, by giving to the Institution a seemingly individual character.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

BLANDINA DUDLEY.

* See letter at the close.

